

Lessons at a Glance

LESSON	QUESTIONS	OBJECTIVES	STANDARDS*
LESSON 1			
The Census and You	What is the census? Why is it taken?	To understand the reasons why the census is taken.	Read with understanding
LESSON 2			
Count Me In!	Who should be counted on the census form?	To identify people who should be included on the census form.	Listen actively Read with understanding
LESSON 3			
If Maps Could Talk	Why do we need a census every ten years?	To use maps to analyze population data.	Observe critically
LESSON 4			
Private Information	How is census information kept private?	To learn that the answers written on the form are kept confidential.	Read with understanding
LESSON 5			
Fill Out the Form	What is the proper way to fill out the census form?	To fill out a practice census form.	Listen actively Read with understanding Convey ideas in writing
LESSON 6			
Participation Counts!	Why is participation in the census important?	To create a poster/flyer encouraging others to participate in the census.	Solve problems and make decisions Plan Cooperate with others Advocate

*Standards developed by “Equipped for the Future,” an initiative of the National Institute for Literacy.

How to Use This Guide

Lessons in this guide use readings, activities, and the We Count! map of the United States to introduce students to the United States census, and in particular, to Census 2000. Students will learn what a census is and why it's important to them, their families, and their communities. Lessons are designed to lead students from understanding the census to participating in it.

Lesson planning at a glance

Lessons at a Glance (on the facing page) provides a summary of the lessons, identifies the main questions they address, their overall objectives, and the standards to which they connect.

Adaptable for your classroom needs

Each lesson in this guide consists of a lesson plan and, except for Lesson 6, a reproducible activity page. The lesson plan includes background information about Census 2000. Because adult classes include students of different skill levels and abilities, the lessons have been written so they can easily be adapted to meet the needs of your students. In addition, a large We Count! map has been included for classroom use.

Understanding the Census

When adult students understand the importance and purpose of the census, and that everyone benefits from an accurate census count, they will more readily fill out and return their census forms. Since confidentiality is a major concern for adults, these lessons will help students understand how the information they provide on the census form is kept confidential.

Extension Activities

All lesson plans contain extension activities. These activities are designed to broaden students' understanding of the census.

Census Information Booklet

Students will create a Census Information Booklet to contain the reproducible activity pages included in the lessons. The booklet will serve as an organizational tool and as a reference for creating a poster/flyer in Lesson 6. The booklet will also serve as the school-to-home connection when students take it home to share with family, friends, and members of their community.

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